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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,171	02/16/2001	Norio Kimura	2001-0163A	1530

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EXAMINER

ROSE, ROBERT A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3723

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/784,171

Applicant(s)
Kimura et al

Examiner
Robert Rose

Art Unit
3723



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 25, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 3723

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of Applicant's Prior Art Statement, filed April 25, 2001.
2. Receipt is acknowledged of Applicant's Foreign Priority Papers, filed April 25, 2001.
3. Claims 1-6 are presented for examination.
4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Takahashi et al(US 5672091). Takahashi et al disclose a polishing apparatus comprising all of the subject matter set forth in applicant's claim. Note optical endpoint detection device (3)(4) adjacent polishing table(1) for detecting the state of the wafer(F) held by top ring(2), without removal of the wafer from the table.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Stephan(Australian No. 245213). Takahashi et al discloses an optical endpoint detection

Art Unit: 3723

device for a cmp machine comprising an optical measuring device located adjacent an outer edge of the polishing pad to detect the surface of an overhanging wafer. While the polishing table lacks a notch in it's outer surface to allow light to pass through for observation of the work, such structure is known in the optical detection art as evidenced by Stephan. To provide one or more such notches in the outer periphery of the polishing table in Takahashi et al to locate the optical endpoint detection device as close as possible to the polishing table to save space, while still allowing detection of the state of the workpiece without removal of the workpiece would have been obvious in view of Stephan.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lenkersdorfer and Lebel et al are cited to show optical endpoint detectors for cmp having rinsing fluid nozzles in proximity to the optical measuring device. Holzapfel et al is cited to show another optical measuring device located at the edge of the polishing pad and having an associated probe cleaning nozzle. Japan No. 403234467 is cited to show an optical measurement device comprising a window incorporated into the polishing table for detecting the state of the work surface during polishing. Mayama is cited to show another rotary polishing tool having optical detection notches in it's periphery.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert Rose at telephone number (703) 308-1360.

rr

August 20, 2002.

ROBERT A. ROSE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 323

